

**Atty Docket No: 1014-11**  
**Response to May 29, 2003 Office Action**

**Applicati n S/N:10/017,963**  
**Date of Respons : October 29, 2003**

**REMARKS**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, and 10 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. The Examiner also requested that the specification should be amended to include serial numbers of co-pending commonly assigned patent applications that Applicant have incorporated by reference. Applicants have amended the specification to include serial numbers of all mentioned patent applications. The Examiner's arguments with respect to claims 1, 6, and 10 are respectfully addressed in light of the above-presented amendments and the following remarks.

**The 35 U.S.C. 112 Second Paragraph Rejections of Claims 1, 6 and 10**

In making the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1 and 6, the Examiner stated that recitation in claims 1 and 6 that the second polarization splitter is connected to the first and second lines is ambiguous because of the implication that the first and second polarization changing means are bypassed. Applicants have thus amended independent claims 1 and 6 to clarify that the second polarization splitter is connected to the first and second polarization changing means and to output and drop ports. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection of claims 1 and 6 should be withdrawn..

In making the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 10, the Examiner stated that in claim 10, step (d) it is unclear through what and to what the signals at the other wavelengths are passed. Applicants have amended claim 10 to clarify that the second polarization splitter is connected to the first and second polarization changing means and to output and drop ports. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection of claims 1 and 6 should be withdrawn..

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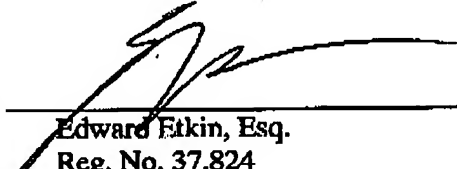
### CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that independent claims 1, 6, and 10, as amended, are now in condition for allowance. Because claims 2-5 and 7-9 are in proper dependent form and depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 6, claims 2-5 and 7-9 are also allowable. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the 35 USC. 112 second paragraph rejections of claims 1-10.

Applicant thus requests allowance of claims 1-10 and asks that the Examiner pass the application to issue. If there are any questions, the Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the below-noted telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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Dated: October 29, 2003

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